



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAYTOWN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING IRS CHECKS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Raytown, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to cashing 26 stolen checks and money orders that had been sent by taxpayers to the Internal Revenue Service in payment of federal income taxes.

Brandon Sanders, 26, of Raytown, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to the charge contained in an Aug. 30, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty today, **Sanders** admitted that, between March and July 2003, he received checks and money orders originally payable to the IRS, and deposited them into his bank account. **Sanders**, who knew the checks and money orders had been stolen, kept some of the money and gave some of the money to a co-defendant. The total amount of checks or money orders that **Sanders** deposited or cashed was \$19,301.

Under federal statutes, **Sanders** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Daniel Stewart. It was investigated by the Department of Treasury, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow